



STATE SENATOR RICHARD BRAY

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SEN. RICHARD BRAY
200 W. WASHINGTON STREET
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467

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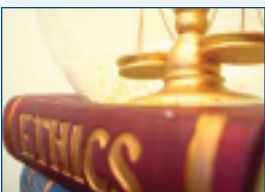
R.B.

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SEN. BRAY: BILLS I SUPPORTED THIS SESSION

✓ **Child Support:** In an effort to collect more than \$2 billion in overdue child support payments, lawmakers passed a bill, which I authored, to withhold casino winnings from those who ignore their court-ordered obligations. The Indiana Department of Child Services estimates more than 165,000 “deadbeat parents” each owe more than \$2,000 in support payments. Colorado passed a similar law in July 2008, resulting in more than \$320 million in delinquent payments.

✓ **Government Ethics:** Legislators passed comprehensive ethics reform legislation, creating a one-year cooling-off period before a retired legislator could become a lobbyist and requiring uniform reporting by all lobbyists. The threshold for reported one-time lobbyist expenses drops from \$100 to \$50, with the annual total dropping from \$500 to \$250. Registration and reporting requirements now include legislative liaisons of state agencies and universities.



✓ **Ag Assessments:** Senate Enrolled Act 396 uses an adjusted rolling average that eliminates the highest assessed value over a six-year period. Known by economists as the “Modified Olympic Average” technique, the model should provide farmers and local governments more stable agricultural property assessments and be more representative of true market value.



✓ **Gun Rights:** House Enrolled Act 1068 aims to keep the names, addresses and other identifying information of more than 300,000 Hoosiers with handgun licenses – also referred to as concealed carry permits – confidential like tax records. House Enrolled Act 1065 prohibits most businesses from enacting policies that prevent licensed gun owners from keeping legal firearms in their locked vehicles out of sight.



SEN. RICHARD BRAY

SERVING SENATE DISTRICT 37 TAXPAYERS



JOBS: LAWMAKERS FIGHT NEW SPENDING, NEW TAXES; PASS PRO-JOBS INITIATIVES TO HELP HOOSIERS

With little time and no money, lawmakers worked this short session to maintain Indiana's pro-job climate of low taxes and limited regulation.

Senators kept a close, careful eye on proposed legislation and amendments to avoid new state expenditures and government intervention that would have raised taxes and imposed red tape during already hard times for Indiana's workforce and employers.

Gov. Mitch Daniels, with the support of Senate Republicans, rightly reacted to tumbling state revenues by cutting government spending, flat-lining state payrolls and freezing all but essential hiring.

To date, state bureaucracies have cut 20 percent from operating budgets. Reluctantly, higher education funding has been reduced 6 percent and public K-12 schools – nearly half of the state budget – have been asked to find 3 percent in new cost savings and efficiencies to help save classroom teachers' jobs.

Senators also successfully delayed \$400 million in new unemployment insurance premiums from going into effect in 2010. By

avoiding premium increases, lawmakers hope employers large and small will be in stronger positions to retain or add employees. Lawmakers also passed initiatives to help Hoosiers recover from the national recession:

- **New Employer Tax Credits** will be offered to businesses relocating or incorporating in Indiana. Qualified businesses must hire 10 or more full-time employees, not including owners.

- **Small Business Tax Credits** will be expanded to make small employers with fewer than 35 workers eligible for Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) credits.

- **Small Business Ombudsman** will be an advocate for small employers with state agencies, helping navigate regulations, streamline paperwork and coordinate due dates. Also, the ombudsman will monitor outdated, ineffective and overly burdensome reporting requests and red tape.

- **H.I.R.E.** (Helping Indiana Re-start Employment) initiative will offer tax incentives to employers who hire and train unemployed and underemployed Hoosiers.



Voters in November will decide if property tax caps will be added to state Constitution – once and for all

Hoosier voters in November's general election will determine if permanent caps on property tax rates will be added to the Indiana Constitution.

Members of the Indiana Senate and House of Representatives this session have given final passage to a resolution that would constitutionally cap property tax rates at 1 percent for owner-occupied homes, 2 percent for other residential and agricultural properties and 3 percent for businesses.

This historic tax reform effort sets the stage to add the 1-2-3 caps to Indiana's Constitution. In order to change the state constitution, an amendment must be passed by two separately-elected sessions of the Indiana General Assembly and then approved by voters.

Immediately after a property tax crisis that sent tax bills skyrocketing and hordes of homeowners to the Statehouse demand-

ing reforms, senators and House members in 2008 passed the phased-in property tax caps into law and started the constitutional amendment process. The Republican-led Senate kept momentum for the amendment by passing it again in 2009, but the caps did not receive a vote last year in the Democrat-controlled House.

This year's action by both the Senate and House proves lawmakers are once again siding with taxpayers and not tax spenders – keeping the promise of permanent property tax relief and reform.

Because lawmakers successfully passed the amendment through both chambers, Hoosier voters will have the final say on Nov. 2. If approved as part of the state constitution, language pertaining to the caps would eliminate the potential legal question as to whether they violate the provision in the Indiana Constitution which states, "the state shall have a uniform and equal rate of property assessment and taxation."

